



Ocotillo

Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District



Councilmember Norma Alvarez

April 8, 2011



Glendale Family Bike Ride This Sunday

Join hundreds of riders this Sunday for great exercise at the annual Glendale Family Bike Ride on Sunday, April 10 at Sahuaro Ranch Park.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the ride begins at 9 a.m. This is a ride for all ages and levels of riders, from kids to adults. Both the long (15-mile ride) and short (6-mile ride) routes take cyclists on a leisurely ride through Glendale's neighborhoods and sections of the Thunderbird Paseo and Skunk Creek pathways.

This is a free ride with no registration fees. Snacks and water are provided at no cost at two rest stops along the route. Helmets are required and can be purchased at the event for \$10.

For more information, visit www.glendaleaz.com/glendalefamilybikeride or call the Glendale Transportation Department at 623-930-2940.

Fuel Use Reduced by 129,000 Gallons. With gas prices flirting with the \$4 mark, the city of Glendale's three-year move to reduce gas consumption will help blunt the pain at the pump for the city's fleet of just over 1,200 vehicles.

Over the past three years, the city has reduced the number of vehicles it operates by 106. It has also downsized 200 vehicles from V-8 to more fuel efficient 4 cylinder models, and has 300 vehicles that can operate on E85, a fuel mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gas. E85 currently costs \$2.71 per gallon, significantly less than unleaded gas.

The fleet vehicle reduction, along with other city moves, has resulted in 1,245,000 fewer miles driven and a 129,300 gallon reduction in fuel used. That could calculate to a half million dollar savings.

The city is also piloting the use of hybrid vehicles and creating a motor pool of 21 vehicles taken out of regular service. The motor pool gives city departments access to vehicles on an as-needed basis without having to maintain the full operation costs of having a dedicated vehicle. The motor pool was a large factor in the city's ability to reduce its fleet of vehicle's from 1,414 in 2009 to 1,209 currently.

Another factor in the city's efforts to reduce fuel consumption is its rigorous maintenance schedule. Factors like proper tire inflation and clean air filters affect a vehicle's gas mileage. For tips on how you can reduce your personal gas consumption, [click here](#).

Camelback Road Storm Drain Project. The Flood Control District's project is making progress after experiencing a setback a few weeks ago with the sink hole at 67th and Camelback. This intersection is now open.

Beginning at 3:00 a.m., Monday, April 18th, the intersection of 59th Avenue and Camelback Road will be closed to all traffic to allow construction of the storm drain improvements through the intersection. This closure is required due to the size of the pipe, construction of system structures, and safety of the assembly crew and the traveling public. The intersection will be closed for 9 days – through 3 a.m., April 27.

Alternative routes will be mandatory during this closure. **Access to local businesses adjacent to the intersection will be restricted, but maintained.** Please expect delays, use caution, and observe construction barricading and signage at all times. [Click here](#) for more information and a map of the intersection closure and business access. A Project Hotline is also available at 480-281-1506.

28th Annual Glendale Jazz & Blues Festival, April 9-10. The city of Glendale's 28th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival will feature a tremendous lineup of local, regional and national entertainment in Historic Downtown Glendale April 9-10.

The jazz headliners, Randy Brecker and John Abercrombie, are both nationally renowned artists that will amaze audiences. Headlining the Blues stage are Curtis Salgado and Shemekia Copeland.

While the music takes center stage during Glendale's longest-running music festival, there is much more to see and do, as the event will also feature craft artisans and delicious food and beverages, including wine tasting by Kokopelli Winery. In addition, two artists will work on-site, giving event attendees an interactive, one-of-a-kind experience to add to the musical performances.

The event will run noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 10. Admission is free. The preferred parking fee is \$10. Historic Downtown Glendale is located at 58th and Glendale avenues. [Read More.](#)

April Teen Programs at Velma Teague Branch Library.

- **Go Green! Teen Photo Contest.**
In honor of Earth Day 2011, the Velma Teague Branch Library will be holding a teen photography contest through the end month of April. Teens, ages 12-18, are invited to submit one color or black and white photo conveying an Earth Day-related theme. Entry forms are available at the library and online at www.glendaleaz.com/library. For more information, call 623-930-3441.
- **Make your own little retro robot!**
Teens, ages 12-18, can stop by the Velma Teague Branch Library on Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. and learn how to create a miniature robot using polymer clay and assorted hardware items, including metal washers, nuts, bolts and springs. Finished claybots can be attached to a keychain or used as fun futuristic decorations. Register online at www.glendaleaz.com/library. For more information, call 623-930-3431.
- **Teen Library Council Meeting.**
Are you looking for something fun to do that can actually make a difference? As a Teen Library Council member you can earn volunteer service hours, have a good time and meet new people, all while helping to make the library a better place for teens. Attend the Thursday, April 21 Teen Library Council Meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Velma Teague Branch Library. The library is currently recruiting teens, ages 12-18, to provide input on the selection of books and music for the branch's teen collection. Council members also participate in the planning and presentation of library teen events. For more information call 623-930-3441.
- **"Get Graphic!" Teen Book Club**
The monthly meeting of the "Get Graphic!" Teen Book Club will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 28, at the Velma Teague Branch Library. Manga and comic book fans, ages 12-18, will not want to miss this monthly opportunity to talk with other teens about their favorite graphic reads and view anime! Upcoming movies and video games will also be discussed. Bring along a graphic novel or comic book of your choice. Snacks will be provided. Register online at www.glendaleaz.com/library or call 623-930-3431.

Velma Teague Branch Library is located in Murphy Part at 7010 N. 58th Ave.

Around Town

[Click here](#) for the City Council meeting schedule. [Click here](#) for past Council meeting agendas and minutes. [Click here](#) to watch a City Council meeting online.

Residents' Input Sought For GO Transportation Program. The 7th Annual GO Program Open House will be held from 4:30-7:00 p.m., April 13 at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Dr. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions on such projects as the Light Rail, Grand Avenue, the Northern Parkway, Loop 303, and the Grand Canal and New River bicycle paths. For more information call 623-930-2940.

Live at the Library. Join us for one of the West Valley's most popular monthly musical series – Live at the Library. The series is held on the fourth Thursday of the month and begins at 6:30 p.m., at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. On April 28, Young Sounds of Arizona, composed entirely of middle school and high school age students, presents "The Magic of Jazz, the Freshness of Youth" for an unforgettable evening of jazz music. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

Shred It & Forget It. Glendale's Community Action Teams are proud to partner with the Target Corporation and Cintas Document Management Company to offer free document shredding to the community to help combat identity theft. Credit card offers, tax returns, medical bills and old bank statements should be shredded rather than simply thrown in the trash. The "Shred It & Forget It" events offered throughout the year offer a fast, convenient, drive-thru service where you can bring up to three standard-size file boxes of documents for secure shredding. The next event is Saturday, April 30th at the Target located at 10404 N 43rd Avenue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the shred trucks are full. For more information on identity theft and "Shred It & Forget It," call (623) 930-2571. [Read more.](#)

Contact Councilmember Alvarez

Council Office: (623) 930-2244 • Home: (623) 937-0734

E-mail: NAlvarez@glendaleaz.com